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LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in Guinea-Bissau

The European Union is gravely concerned at the further deterioration of the situation in Guinea-Bissau, following the recent attempted military coup d'état.

The European Union is particularly concerned at reports of civilian casualties, both in Bissau and among those fleeing the fighting. It calls on the mutineers to lay down their arms, thus enabling the immediate re-establishment of constitutional order and an end to further bloodshed.

The European Union further states its readiness to provide humanitarian assistance as soon as the conditions on the ground make it possible to reach those who need it.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the European Free Trade Association countries, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.